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MAY 15 1915

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THE MENTOR

YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK

By DWIGHT L. ELMENDORF
Lecturer and Traveler

DEPARTMENT OF
TRAVEL

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The Call of the Yellowstone



A THOUSAND Yellowstone wonders are calling, 'look up and down and round about you!' And a multitude of still, small voices may be heard directing you to look through all this transient, shifting show of things called 'substantial' into the truly substantial, spiritual world whose forms, flesh and wood, rock and water, air and sunshine, only veil and conceal, and to learn that here is heaven and the dwelling place of the angels.



THE sun is setting; long, violet shadows are growing out over the woods from the mountains along the western rim of the park; the Absaroka range is baptized in the divine light of the alpenglow, and its rocks and trees are transfigured. Next to the light of the dawn on high mountain tops, the alpenglow is the most impressive of all the terrestrial manifestations of God.



NOW comes the gloaming. The alpenglow is fading into earthly, murky gloom, but do not let your town habits draw you away to the hotel. Stay on this good fire-mountain and spend the night among the stars. Watch their glorious bloom until the dawn, and get one more baptism of light. Then, with fresh heart go down to your work, and whatever your fate, under whatever ignorance or knowledge you may afterward chance to suffer, you will remember these fine, wild views, and look back with joy to your wanderings in the blessed old Yellowstone Wonderland."

JOHN MUIR



A Park Stage

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

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THE MENTOR • • MAY 15, 1915

MENTOR GRAVURES

GREAT FALLS AND POINT LOOKOUT, GOLDEN GATE, JUPITER TERRACE, OLD FAITHFUL
GEYSER, CLEOPATRA TERRACE, FISHING CONE-YELLOWSTONE LAKE.

THE United States government gave the Yellowstone country to the people "for their benefit and enjoyment." This was in 1872. But ages ago Nature made a wonderland of this territory,—a vast outdoor museum "for the benefit and enjoyment" not only of human-kind, but of all living creatures that found their way there. And so the Yellowstone country is not only a great pleasure park for the people, but it is a playground for many creatures. Buffalo, elk, deer, antelope, bear, sheep, and other animals wander freely in the park, and are sheltered there, and no one can molest them. In this particular, mankind has endeavored, so far as possible in this advanced age of civilization, to restore the simple relationship between living creatures that existed, as we are told, in the Garden of Eden.

The great bulk of Yellowstone Park lies in Wyoming, and it consists of a territory 62 miles long and 54 miles wide. When Nature opened up this place she was in an active and interested mood. The whole territory shows that it has been the scene of tremendous volcanic upheavals and startling chemical combinations, the results of which have been the development of a collection of natural wonders that makes the park the greatest show place of "all outdoors." There are to be found within this

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

territory geysers of various kinds, boiling springs, terrace and crater formations over which trickles wondrously colored mineral water, deep canyons, hills of sulphur, cliffs of glass, petrified trees, pools of emerald, blue, golden, or of rainbow hues, and all set in scenery of wild and exquisite beauty. The geysers are the largest in the world. The Canyon of the Yellowstone, though not to be ranked in size with the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, surpasses anything of its kind in its marvelously varied coloring.

The wonders of Yellowstone Park are usually "taken in" by the tourist in five days. It is a pity that so many travelers cannot

stay longer; for the park is an active show place. It is constantly doing things, and it does some things only once in awhile. Its operations are varied and intermittent. Spend weeks there, as I have done, and you will appreciate this. The star performers in the great natural show place take turn in entertaining you. Today the Giant Geyser spouts. Tomorrow it may be something else. If you go away too soon, you are sure to miss something interesting.



YELLOWSTONE CANYON
Looking toward Inspiration Point

ENTERING THE NATIONAL PARK

You are near the great Continental Divide when you reach Yellowstone National Park. The lowest valley in the park is 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, while the mountain peaks rise from 10,000 to 14,000 feet above sea level. Yellowstone Lake, which is 15 by 20 miles in size,

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

is the largest American lake at this altitude, and from the waters of Yellowstone Park flow three great rivers,—the Missouri, the Yellowstone, and the Columbia. Our National Park is, therefore, in a sense at the top of our country.

There are three established ways of entering. You may go in from the west, beginning at Yellow-

stone, which is reached by the Oregon Short Line Railroad, or come down from the north by the Northern Pacific Railroad and enter the park by Gardiner. A third means of approach is by a wagon road running into the park from Cody in the east. Many travelers find the northern route pleasant; though there is not much choice between that and the entrance by way of Yellowstone. If you come down from the north, you will go in by the stone archway that marks the northern entrance. This was



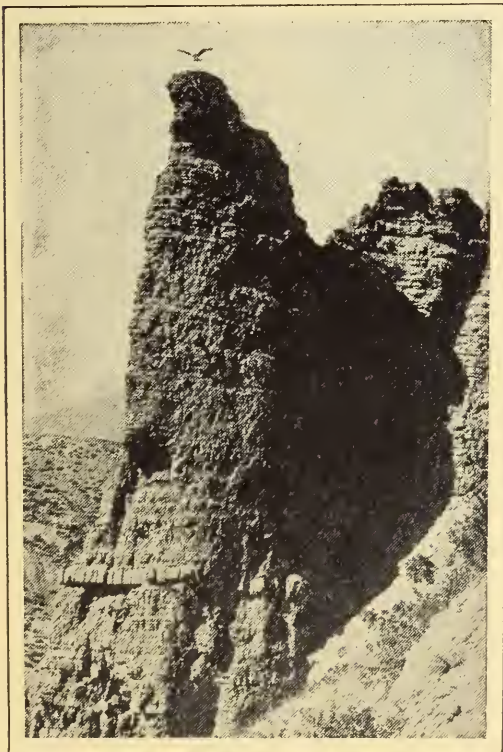
Haynes Photo

MAMMOTH HOTEL AND FORT YELLOWSTONE

built by the government, and dedicated by President Roosevelt in 1903. A five-mile ride brings you to Mammoth Hot Springs and Fort Yellowstone. The fort is a lively, though small, military post for the cavalry companies that police the roads and take care of the park.

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS

The Mammoth Hotel close by Fort Yellowstone is convenient to the boiling springs and terraces that occupy a number of acres at the slope of what is called Terrace Mountain. Soon after arriving you begin to hear the word "formation." All the terraces produced by Mammoth Hot Springs are referred to as "formations." Jupiter Terrace has various styles of "formation." The Pulpit Terrace has a peculiar "formation" of its own. You will quickly get used to it, and will find the word very

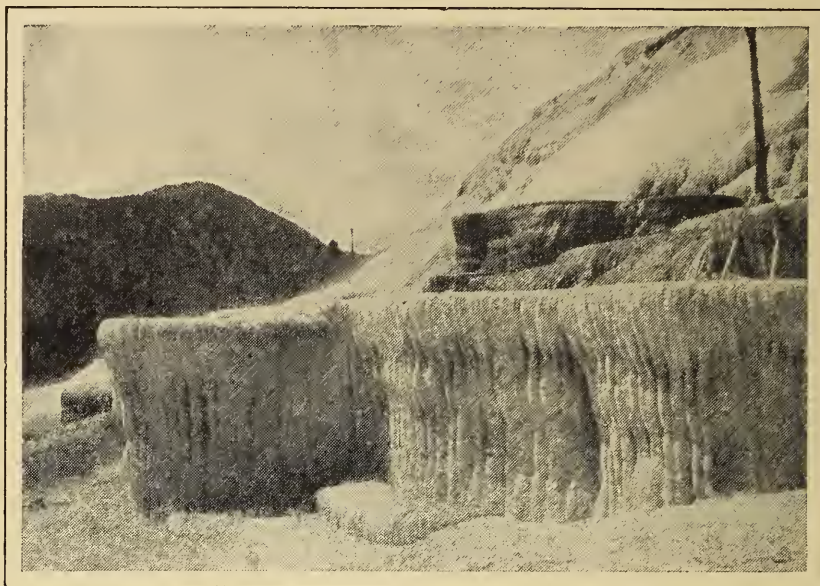


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EAGLE NEST ROCK, GARDINER CANYON

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

convenient to cover any and all of the amazing shapes and structures created by the action of mineral deposits. These extraordinary terraces are beautiful when "alive"; that is, when the mineral-bearing water is flowing over them. When the water has been checked and changes its course the terraces left dry lose their living colors, grow white as sepulchers, and begin to show signs of crumbling.



Haynes Photo

PULPIT TERRACE

The process of terrace building is very simple and beautiful,—the mineral-bearing water from the boiling springs catches in hollows on the slope of the mountain and forms pools. Then, as the water cools, it makes mineral deposits which take on various shapes as they grow, and on these "formations" the water paints the most dazzling and beautiful colors. No words can describe the exquisite beauty of the terraces. The colors are brilliant and varied, and the rippling water gives them a life and a sparkle that captivate the eye. The coloring is not, as some suppose, produced entirely by mineral deposits. A contributing factor is a minute plant growth called algæ which holds to the rock and thrives in the hot water of the spring. The coloring is due to the reflection and refraction of the light rays effected by the nature and color of the linings of the pool and its surroundings.



Haynes Photo

MINERVA TERRACE

The best known and most beautiful of these "formations" are Jupiter Terrace, Cleopatra Terrace, and Minerva Terrace. The last named has, however, been failing, and betrays evidences of a complete cessation of activity.

GOLDEN GATE AND THE GEYSERS

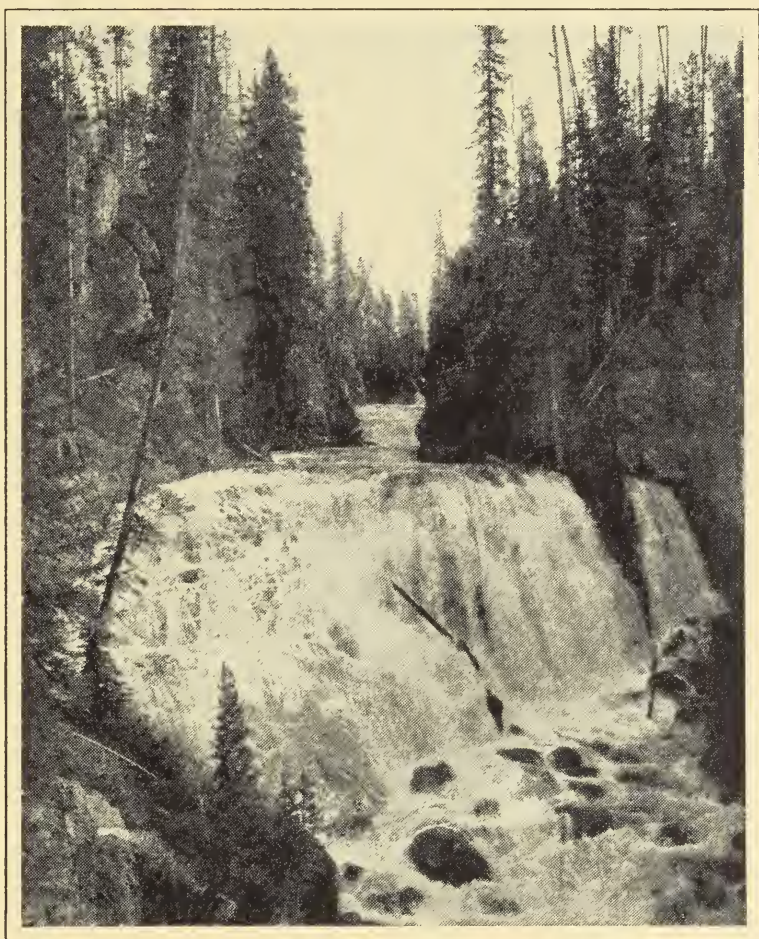
When you have feasted your eyes to the full on the iridescent-hued ter-

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ances you will be eager to start south for the Golden Gate and the geyser basins. Fine Concord coaches drawn by four or six horses start briskly off for the park trip, which covers more than 100 miles of sight-seeing. This trip divides itself naturally into two distinct features,—the geyser section, and the lake and canyon section.

On leaving Mammoth Springs Hotel we sweep down the road past Liberty Cap, an extinct geyser crown about 50 feet high. We skirt the terraces and make off for Norris Basin, 20 miles away. The road climbs steadily, so that by the time we reach Golden Gate, four miles from Mammoth Springs, we have ascended 1,000 feet, and we go through the great opening to the park at an altitude of 7,000 feet above the sea. This great portal is called the Golden Gate because of the rich yellow moss that covers the rocks. Once beyond the gateway, we look forward to the richest and most interesting section of the park.

The scenery is superb. Off there lies Electric Peak, called so because of the electric forces that are active about its sides and summit. When we have covered about 12 miles we pass along a great cliff of obsidian which rises 250 feet above the road and presents a glistening front to the rays of the sun. Ob-



VIRGINIA CASCADE

sidian is volcanic glass, and has been produced by the cooling of waves of lava. The Indians found it good material for arrowheads. Then the drive follows the shore of Beaver Lake and past Roaring Mountain until it turns into Norris Geyser Basin. Here are a number of boiling pools and geysers of varying action and character. No great geyser is to be found here. We must look for them in the Upper Geyser Section. They serve well, however, to introduce us to the wonders of the geyser springs.

The Black Growler Steam Vent always attracts notice. It makes a great fuss and roars in a most ferocious manner. In contrast to that, Emerald Pool, lying south, is a quiet, placid body of water of pearl-like



UPPER GEYSER BASIN

Tea Kettle. Crater of Giant Geyser. Grand Geyser. Oblong Geyser.

greenish hue. The largest geyser in Norris Basin is the Monarch. It has two oblong openings, and is an eccentric and willful creature, spurting in great explosions at intervals of about six hours. On the road through Gibbon Canyon we get a glimpse of Gibbon Falls, 80 feet high, a beautiful veil of water streaming over rocks.

MIDWAY AND LOWER GEYSER BASIN

The Lower Geyser Basin is a valley taking in 30 or 40 square miles and filled with hot springs and geysers. The Fountain Hotel is the headquarters for this section, and from there visits are made to the Fountain and Great Fountain Geysers, and the Mammoth Paint Pots. Among the many things to be seen in the park, the Paint Pots seem to cling tenaciously to the memory. It is not that they are so wonderful, but rather that they are so queer. Here are mammoth caldrons filled with soft mud, out of which rise little spouts of pink, white, and yellow mud. The shapes they take are grotesquely odd. An imaginative observer is held fascinated, waiting to see what shape will spout up next.



Haynes Photo

EMERALD POOL

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

In Midway Geyser Basin, which is four miles beyond, the three features are Excelsior Geyser, Prismatic Lake, and Turquoise Spring. The Excelsior Geyser is on the west bank of Firehole River, in a great pit, and when it is at work it tosses the water tumultuously into the air anywhere from 75 to 250 feet. It was in full operation in 1881 during the fall, after

the tourist season was over. Then it became busy again in 1888. Only a few have been fortunate enough to see the Excelsior in full operation.

Turquoise Spring is a beautiful blue pool of water. And Prismatic Lake, which lies near Excelsior Geyser, is a wide pond whose depths are filled with rainbow hues. From the Lower Basin the road runs past Morning Glory Spring and Riverside Gey-



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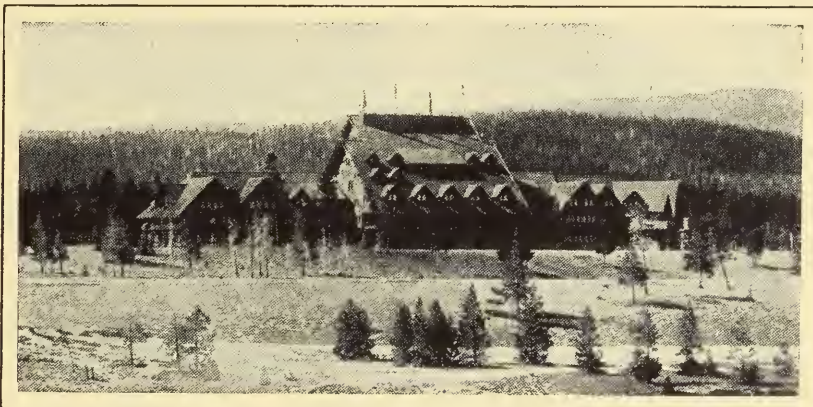
GIBBON FALLS

ser, where it crosses the Firehole River and turns into the territory known as the Upper Geyser Basin.

UPPER GEYSER BASIN

In this basin the greatest geysers are to be seen. The basin itself covers a space of about four square miles, and in that area are to be found 26 geysers and 400 hot springs. Through the basin runs the Firehole River, and at the most interesting point is situated Old Faithful Geyser and Old Faithful Inn. This inn is an attractive structure, built of logs and blocks of stone, and constructed throughout in a style appropriate for its setting. All hotels in the park are good, and each has a certain quality and flavor of its own. But hotel life is not an essential part of the trip. Many go tramping and camping along the way. Full outfits for camping are supplied at the Mammoth Springs Hotel, and people who prefer to follow the simple path are encouraged and assisted.

Old Faithful Inn looks out upon an active spectacle. A few hundred



Haynes Photo

OLD FAITHFUL INN

feet away Old Faithful Geyser plays his steady and reliable part. He is a splendid old spouter, and as faithful as his name. About every 65 minutes,—there is hardly a variation of five minutes,—day and night, summer and winter, Old Faithful makes his display. Like the beat of a pulse, and almost with the regularity of a clock, he has been keeping time through the ages. No doubt he was marking the hours before mankind invented the measure of time.

Then there is Giant Geyser, which plays 250 feet in the air for an hour and a half every seven to 12 days. That is the highest geyser in the world. The Beehive Geyser (called by that name because of the shape of its cone) is almost directly in front of Old Faithful Inn. The Sponge Geyser is another busy affair, with a descriptive name; also Castle Geyser, so called because of its resemblance to “an old feudal castle partially in ruins.” Geyser wonders multiply, and the names are lost in the mind of even the most attentive traveler. Books have been written in description of their varying qualities. Suffice it to say that the National Park has over 4,000 boiling springs and more than 100 active geysers.

WHAT IS A GEYSER?

Perhaps the simplest way to make clear the nature of a geyser is to say that it is a hot spring bursting out from under pressure. The great

scientist, R. W. Bunsen, describes the action of a geyser as follows: “It is well known that the pressure in water increases with the depth on account of gravity; furthermore, that the boiling point rises with the increase in pressure. The geyser tube, which extends deep into the earth, is filled with water from the higher tracts of land around. The heat comes from the buried masses of lava in the earth not



Haynes Photo

CASTLE GEYSER



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SPONGE GEYSER



CONE OF LONE STAR GEYSER

yet cooled." The water so heated bursts periodically through its bonds and spouts up into the open air.

YELLOWSTONE LAKE AND CANYON

From Upper Geyser Basin we ride over the summit of the Continental Divide and down to Yellowstone Lake. The distance is 19 miles, and all along the way there is something in sight to arouse interest and give delight,—the Kepler Cascades, laughing and leaping through a rock chasm, Lone Star Geyser, and many beautiful views of lake and mountain

scenery. You see Yellowstone Lake first at Thumb Bay. It is a brilliant, sparkling body of water, and so far not enough populated along its shores to have lost its appearance of wild freedom. It lies there in smooth, sunny beauty, surrounded by wooded hills, and at first sight it wins the heart of the most experienced lake explorer. There is plenty to see and plenty to enjoy at Yellowstone Lake,—mountain climbing, driving and riding, boating, fishing, and exploring. The fishing there is famous, especially during the trout season, and the points of interest to entice the visitor are sufficient in number and character to hold him in thrall for weeks.

The great sight, naturally, is the Grand Canyon. It is approached from Yellowstone Lake by a road running up the river about 17 miles. Of course our first instinct in approaching the canyon is to hurry to Grand View or Point Lookout in order to feast our eyes on that ravishing scene of which we have heard so much,—Great Falls and the canyon below. But let us take our time. There is much to see before we gratify our appetite for the crowning sight of all. The Upper Falls is no mean affair in the way of a cataract. It drops 112 feet with great turbulence and foam. Crystal Falls is well worth a visit, and likewise Grotto Pool. Then we grow im-



Haynes Photo

CONE OF GIANT GEYSER

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

patient. Nothing will satisfy us but to hurry on until we find the supreme spot of beauty in the National Park. Let us stand, then, on Point Lookout, 1,200 feet above the river, and take in the full glory of the scene. The falls are 360 feet in height, and they pour through a contracted space of 75 feet down in one splendid, seething



RAPIDS OF THE YELLOWSTONE

Just above Upper Falls, where the canyon begins

white torrent to settle in the riverbed and then float through the canyon in a stream of exquisite emerald green. About us everywhere is color. It seems as if Nature's palette had been exhausted in painting the walls of that wonderful chasm. No words can fully express the beauty of the scene. As in facing the majesty of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, we surrender speech and gaze upon the wonder in a sort of religious silence. And the same might be said of the whole canyon of the Yellowstone. In all its 20 miles of extent it is one glorious panorama of beauty. I have referred to the coloring. Of all the descriptions of the Canyon that I have read, Dr. Wayland Hoyt's is the most graphic and vivid—especially in its notes on color. "As soon as you can stand

it," he says, "go out on that jutting rock and mark the sculpturing of God upon those vast and solemn walls. . . . Almost beyond all else, you are fascinated by the magnificence and utter opulence of color. Those are not simple gray and hoary depths, and reaches and domes and pinnacles of sullen rock. The whole gorge flames. It is as though rainbows had fallen out of the sky and hung themselves there like glorious ban-



Haynes Photo **OBLONG GEYSER CRATER**

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ners. The underlying color is the clearest yellow; this flushes onward into orange. Down at the base the deepest mosses unroll their draperies of the most vivid green; browns, sweet and soft, do their blending; white rocks stand spectral; turrets of rock shoot up as crimson as though they were drenched through with blood. It is a wilderness of color. It is impossible that even the pencil of an artist can tell it. What you would call, accustomed to the softer tints of nature, a great exaggeration would be the utmost tameness compared with the reality. It is as if the most glorious sunset you ever saw had been caught and held upon that resplendent, awful gorge."

It is better, therefore, to begin, as we have done, from the north, and save the canyon for the last; for after that there is nothing that can share its place in our minds. We go back then from the canyon to Norris and take our leave of the park either by the west route through Yellowstone, or by the north route through Mammoth Hot Springs. Our Yellowstone trip has passed like a beautiful dream. It remains with us as a treasured memory.



Haynes Photo

PUNCH BOWL SPRING

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

OUR NATIONAL PARKS

By John Muir

1901. Illustrated and finely descriptive.

THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

By H. M. Chittenden

1911. Historical and descriptive.

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Compiled by J. E. Haynes

1912. Descriptive, geological and historical.

THE DISCOVERY OF YELLOWSTONE PARK

By N. P. Langford

1905. A diary with an introduction.

THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

By F. V. Hayden

1883. U. S. Government Report.

BOOK OF A HUNDRED BEARS

1911.

By F. Dumont Smith

CHRONICLES OF THE YELLOWSTONE

By E. S. Topping

GEOLOGY OF THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

By Arnold Hague

1899.

THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

By Arnold Hague

Scribner's Magazine, May, 1904.



What is the story of Yellowstone Park? It began a hundred years ago, and its crowning chapter was the year 1872.

From all accounts it is likely that the first white man who set foot in the Yellowstone country was John Colter. He was a member of the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition which explored the great northwest and returned to St. Louis in 1806. Colter cut loose and rambled about in the Big Horn valley, reached the forks of the Shoshone River, and worked his way on through part of the Yellowstone region. He was gone four years, and when he turned up again in St. Louis in 1810 he had some big stories to tell of hairbreadth escapes from Indians and of the wonderful sights he had seen. His accounts of geysers and hot springs and boiling pools and so on were not more than half believed. The general attitude towards him was expressed in the term people gave to the wonderland which he described so vividly. They called it "Colter's Hell."

Colter talked about his experiences, but he left no records. Nothing was written about the Yellowstone region until 1834. Then W. A. Ferris visited the Upper and Lower geyser basins and wrote an account of them. Ten years later some more information was printed, this time from the testimony of a celebrated Rocky Mountain guide, James Bridger. It was Bridger that gave the first account of the glory of Yellowstone lake. After Bridger's time there were several expeditions, each adding their evidence, and by 1863 a



Haynes Photo

GIANT GEYSER

strong conviction had become established that the Yellowstone region held a greater number of natural wonders than any other area of equal extent in the world.

A private expedition in 1869, conducted by explorers Folsom, Peterson and Cook, was rich in results, especially in facts concerning the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Great Falls, and the Lake. The story told by Folsom attracted attention, and in 1870 a big party under General Washburn explored the region, passing up the Yellowstone River, traveling completely around the Lake and visiting several of the Geyser Basins. Many of the features of the

park were named by this party—Mount Washburn, for example, and Old Faithful, the Castle, Bee-hive, and other geysers. It was the success of the Washburn expedition that led to extensive explorations in 1871 under Dr. Hayden of the U. S. Geological Survey. Dr. Hayden was accompanied by the celebrated landscape photographer Jackson, of Colorado, whose admirable pictures had much to do with building up interest in the project for the National Park.

After that the great riches and the unparalleled wonders of the Yellowstone were no longer a matter of conjecture nor food for imaginative story-tellers. They were in the possession of science. Following close upon the Hayden expedition the region was set aside by Congress, and President Grant placed his signature to the act of dedication in March, 1872.

W. D. Moffat
EDITOR

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58. Holland
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60. Glacier National Park
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62. American Colonial Furniture
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65. The Story of the Rhine
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72. Alaska
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75. Fathers of the Constitution
76. Masters of the Piano
Volume 3
77. American Historic Homes
78. Beauty Spots of India
79. Etchers and Etching
80. Oliver Cromwell
81. China
82. Favorite Trees

NUMBERS TO FOLLOW

June 1. FAMOUS WOMEN WRITERS OF ENGLAND

By Hamilton W. Mabie, Author and Editor.

The women writers of England take equal rank with the men of that country who have won fame in the field of letters. Mr. Mabie's entertaining article tells of the greatest of these women and their work.

June 15. PAINTERS OF WESTERN LIFE

By Arthur Hoeber, Artist and Author.

Many artists have painted the life of the great American West. Everyone knows the living figures that Remington, Russell, and others have placed upon canvas. Mr. Hoeber presents to us the work of all these painters, and shows why it is important.

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